

**Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS)**

1. Please describe to us EPA's role regarding endangered species under FIFRA, including EPA's ecological risk assessment. Are significant agency resources dedicated to this type of analysis?

Response

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

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2. Under the Endangered Species Act, the EPA is charged with examining their actions to regulate pesticides. If a pesticide “may affect and is likely to adversely affect” a listed species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service become involved in this regulatory process through formal consultation with the expert agency, here EPA. The Services then issue Biological Opinions providing documentation regarding whether a pesticide’s use would jeopardize listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. Do the Services provide EPA with the best scientific and commercial data available in these processes? Does EPA have satisfactory access to this data, including any modeling done by the Services? In what ways could the Services improve their Biological Opinions provided to EPA, or towards the consultation process generally? Is there sufficient transparency in these processes?

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3. How much does it cost EPA from start to finish to complete a consultation with the Services?

Please include any full time equivalent (FTE) estimate as well for the agency.

Response

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